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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/556,447      | 11/10/2005  | Sen Kee Chen         | NL 030438           | 3810             |

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS  
P.O. BOX 3001  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

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| EXAMINER |
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IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3765

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 01/11/2007 | PAPER         |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/556,447

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/10/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***CLAIMS***

#### ***Summary***

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-1-0 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schott et al. (2,834,062) in view of Bain Jr. et al. (4,749,755).

Schott et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Schott et al. teach an iron comprising a cartridge or reservoir 20 for accommodating an amount of water. The reservoir includes an outer wall with a vent means 80, 82, 76 and 78. The venting means includes a tubular vent with a storage chamber 76 extending from the outer wall at 78 (figure 4) to the vent hole within the cartridge at 80. However, Schott et al. do not suggest the iron as further including a sprayer comprising a nozzle with aperture and pump for spraying the article being ironed.

Bain et al. teach a steam iron including a cartridge 58 and a vent 432, 422 with hole at 434. Further, Bain et al. teach the iron as including in another embodiment a pump and spray nozzle with an aperture 444 (see figure 29). The nozzle receives water from the cartridge via a tube 456 and the pump is actuated via button 442 for pumping water to and through the nozzle and to the article being ironed.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the iron of Schott et al. as further including a sprayer. The sprayer would allow the article to be further wetted and thus more easily have its wrinkles removed by the heated soleplate 10.

Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schott et al. (2,8343,062), as modified by Bain Jr. et al., above.

Schott et al., as modified by Bain Jr. et al., disclose the invention substantially as claimed. A cartridge or reservoir 20 for accommodating an amount of water is provided. The reservoir includes an outer wall with a vent means 80, 82, 76 and 78. The venting means includes a tubular vent with a storage chamber 76 extending from the outer wall at 78 (figure 4) to the vent hole within the cartridge at 80. However, Schott et al., as modified above by Bain Jr., do not suggest the specific measurements or dimensions of the vent tubing.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the venting means of Schott et al., as modified above by Bain Jr., as further including particular measurements and dimensions for the venting tube. Providing particular measurements and dimensions would involve an

optimization of the size and length of the tubing relative to the design of the iron and to a prediction of the amount of water being used or required for a typical pressing of an article. A person of ordinary skill would have wanted to optimize such measurements for providing efficient use of the iron.

#### ***PERTINENT CITATIONS***


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ekstedt and Sastre illustrate irons including check valves at the venting of the irons. Swenson illustrates an iron including a venting passage for the reservoir of an iron. Bontems et al. Illustrate a movable filler cap for a cartridge of an iron.

#### ***INQUIRIES***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ismael Izaguirre  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3765